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4 March 1966

OCI No. 1154/66
Copy No.

(35)

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

GHANA'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS' CAMP AND THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
Office of Current Intelligence

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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[Redacted Box]
OCI No. 1154/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
4 March 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Ghana's Freedom Fighters' Camp
and the Chinese Communists

1. One of the earliest pronouncements of the new regime in Ghana was a promise to end Ghanaian meddling in the internal affairs of other African states. This statement was broadcast shortly after the discovery of a secret training camp for subversives run by the Chinese Communists in the interior of Ghana.
2. The Nkrumah regime had been in the business of providing support, in the form of hospitality, money, and training in guerrilla techniques, to African "freedom fighters" virtually since Ghana became independent in March 1957. Chinese Communist assistance in this effort, however, apparently dates only from late 1964 or early 1965.
3. Ghanaian aid and comfort were extended at first only to African nationalists from still-dependent territories--which in 1957 included all of Black Africa except Liberia, Ethiopia, and Ghana itself. After 1960, Ghana "adopted" and similarly aided dissidents from neighboring independent African states--particularly French African--considered by Nkrumah to have "neocolonialist" regimes.

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5. Since late 1964 [redacted]

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[redacted] the major and perhaps the only freedom fighters' camp in Ghana is the one now being publicized in the press. The decision for its establishment was apparently made in August 1964. It was set up some 140 miles northwest of Accra and not far from the upcountry city of Kumasi. The actual site is an abandoned gold mine near the small town of Obenemasi. [redacted] Chinese guerrilla train-
ers arrived in Ghana [redacted]

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6. [redacted] during 1965 [redacted]

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the number of Chinese may have fluctuated somewhat, but apparently never exceeded the size of the original group. [redacted]

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7. A wide variety of Africans deemed by Nkrumah to qualify as "freedom fighters" have received training at Obenemasi. Apparently included were dissident elements from independent Niger, Cameroon, Congo (Leopoldville), Ivory Coast, Senegal, and South Africa. The largest individual contingents, however, evidently came from Rhodesia and Portugal's three African territories, especially Angola and Mozambique. At the time of the coup, arrangements were already under way to process additional recruits through this program.

8. All told, perhaps several hundred trainees have passed through the Obenemasi camp since the Chinese became involved in the program. [redacted]

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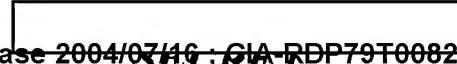
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
28 February 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Ghana's Freedom Fighters' Camp and the
Communist Chinese

1. The Nkrumah regime had been in the business of providing support, in the form of hospitality, money, and training in guerrilla techniques, to African "freedom fighters" virtually since Ghana became independent in March 1957. Communist Chinese assistance in this effort, however, apparently dates [redacted]

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2. Ghanaian aid and comfort were extended mainly, and at first only, to African nationalists from still dependent territories--which in 1957 included all of Black Africa except for Liberia, Ethiopia, and Ghana itself. Later, especially after 1960 when the greater part of sub-Saharan Africa gained formal independence, some dissidents from neighboring independent African states--particularly French African--considered by Nkrumah to have "neocolonialist" regimes were similarly "adopted" and aided by Ghana.

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the major and perhaps the only freedom fighters' camp in Ghana is the one now being publicized by the press.

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It was set up with the assistance of Chinese Communist specialists some 140 miles northwest of Accra and not far from the upcountry city of Kumasi. The nearest community is the small town of Obenemasi, but the actual site is an abandoned gold mine. The Chinese group

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The number of Chinese may have fluctuated somewhat, but apparently never exceeded the size of the original group.

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Remarks:

Thank you very much. I have given the original of this memorandum to the Director for use with our Congressional Committees.

Would you please put this memorandum in appropriate form and distribute it throughout the intelligence community, as well as to Messrs. Rusk, McNamara, and Komer.

Att. - "Ghana's Freedom Fighters' Camp and the Communist Chinese"

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.

DATE

Richard Helms, DDCI

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